

In the Claims: (strikethrough parts deleted and underlined parts added)

Please delete Claims 5, 8, 13, 14, 15 without prejudice.

1. (Currently Amended) A boat propeller shield system, comprising:
a cover having an interior cavity for receiving a propeller;
a front opening within a front portion of said cover;
wherein said cover includes a rear portion opposite of said front portion and wherein
said rear portion includes at least one slot;
a slit extending from a perimeter of said first opening; and
a fastener attached to said cover for selectively securing said slit.

2. (Original) The boat propeller shield system of Claim 1, wherein said cover is constructed of a resilient material.

3. (Original) The boat propeller shield system of Claim 1, wherein said cover is constructed of neoprene.

4. (Original) The boat propeller shield system of Claim 1, wherein said cover has a circular shape.

5. (Canceled)

6. (Currently Amended) The boat propeller shield system of Claim~~5~~ 1, wherein said cover includes a middle portion between said front portion and said rear portion.

7. (Original) The boat propeller shield system of Claim 6, wherein said front portion and said rear portion are substantially parallel to one another.

8. (Canceled)

9. (Currently Amended) The boat propeller shield system of Claim-8 1, wherein said at least one slot is comprised of a curved shape.

10. (Original) The boat propeller shield system of Claim 1, wherein said fastener is comprised of a zipper structure.

11. (Original) The boat propeller shield system of Claim 1, wherein said front opening is comprised of a circular shape.

12. (Original) The boat propeller shield system of Claim 1, wherein said front portion has a convex structure.

13. (Canceled)

14. (Canceled)

15. (Canceled)

16. (Currently Amended) A boat propeller shield system, comprising:

a cover including a front portion and a rear portion having a circular shape and an interior cavity for receiving a propeller, wherein said cover is comprised of neoprene, and wherein said front portion and said rear portion each have a convex structure;

a front opening within a front portion of said cover, wherein said front opening has a circular shape;

wherein said cover includes a rear portion opposite of said front portion and wherein said rear portion includes at least one slot;

a slit extending from a perimeter of said first opening; and

a zipper attached to said cover for selectively securing said slit.

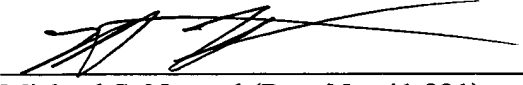
C. APPLICANT'S COMMENTS

Claims 1-4, 6, 7, 9-12, 16 are pending in this Application, with Claims 5, 8, 13, 14, 15 canceled, and with Claims 1, 6, 9, 16 being amended. No new matter is added by way of these amendments, and the amendments are supported throughout the Specification and the drawings. Reconsideration of Claims 1-4, 6, 7, 9-12, 16 is respectfully requested. While the Applicant respectfully disagrees with the rejection of the original Claims 1-16, the Applicant expressly reserves the right to respond to any future rejections based upon the cited references in any future patent application. Pursuant to paragraph 6 of the Official Action, the Application is now respectfully submitted to be in condition for allowance.

D. CONCLUSION

In light of the foregoing amendments and remarks, early reconsideration and allowance of this application are most courteously solicited. Should the Examiner consider necessary or desirable any formal changes anywhere in the specification, claims and/or drawing, then it is respectfully asked that such changes be made by Examiner's Amendment, if the Examiner feels this would facilitate passage of the case to issuance. Alternatively should the Examiner feel that a personal discussion might be helpful in advancing this case to allowance, they are invited to telephone the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,



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